

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed action in Accomack County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

March 27, 2013 to April 23, 2013

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Certification

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal licensing activity to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

U.S. DOT/Federal Aviation Administration

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Accomack County Airport Commission (Commission) proposes to acquire aviation easements and remove approximately 247 acres of obstructions (trees) on both the acquired easements and existing property at the county-owned Accomack County Airport (MFV) near the Town of Melfa. The trees that have been determined to cause interference to the electronic signal emitted by the localizer antenna and are obstructions to navigation (FAR part 77) for approach and transitional surfaces at MFV. The Commission will acquire approximately 125 acres of aviation easements for tree clearing that is off airport property. The obstruction removal involves approximately 2 acres of tree clearing and approximately 245 acres of tree removal through the use of silviculture. Two tree removal methods will be used to eliminate the obstructions at the airport. The first includes the clearing and grubbing of 2 acres of trees adjacent to the airport terminal area. The remaining 245 acres will involve the removal of trees via silviculture where approximately 91 acres consist of wetlands. Silviculture will be utilized to reduce the environmental impact of tree clearing and permanent impacts on wetlands. The proposed tree clearing and silviculture will take approximately 120 days to complete. Phase one of the silviculture process consists of cutting trees without grubbing the root system, utilizing equipment that will minimize ground disturbance. Phase two involves replanting with different species of trees that will flourish in the indigenous environment but will not grow to the heights of those species that were removed. The Commission has submitted an Environmental Assessment for the project that includes a Federal Consistency Certification (FCC). The FCC finds the proposed project consistent with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NAME; John E. Fisher
DEQ Central Office
Office of Environmental Impact Review
629 East Main Street, Room 633
Richmond, Virginia, 23219;

Phone: (804) 698-4339
Fax: (804) 698-4319
E-mail: john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov